

T> Dear FCC:>

> I am a citizen, teacher and entrepreneur who is concerned about  
> protecting and improving the welfare of people and our environment. Out  
> of this concern I insist that you preserve what little we still have  
> left of one of our most valuable resources, heterogeneity of news  
> reporting and opinion.

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> Permitting more media consolidation is unacceptable. For example,  
> granting the ability of a business to own both a television station and  
> newspaper in the same community would lay the ground work for many  
> communities having a thoughtless homogeneity of opinions. Increased  
> media consolidation would leave no room for the invigorating divergence  
> of perspective and opinion that we need in order to make well informed  
> decisions. The highly esteemed freedom of the press was placed in our  
> constitution in order to prevent any holder of power from having a  
> headlock on news and opinion. Our rules blocking media consolidation  
> must stand in order to have our freedom of the press exercised toward  
> its fullest.

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> Amongst the attitudes that increased consolidation could indoctrinate  
> with a homogenous local press are hatred, bigotry, wastefulness and  
> provincialism (corporate and regional). Perhaps it would not happen now  
> with the current owners of papers and television stations, but the door  
> would be opened for future demagogues. At every level, including the  
> local level, we need the balance of variety, not just a few barely  
> distinguishable perspectives. A diversity of perspectives and opinions  
> serves the public.

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> P.S. As an example of how important the heterogeneity of our press is, I  
> am disappointed to report to you that despite the vital importance of  
> this proposed rule change, my only sources of news on this issue has  
> been "Now," a television show that airs at 11 PM on Friday and emails  
> from the show's host. Many more people would have welcomed awareness of  
> this news, but it went unreported or under reported in the mainstream  
> press.

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